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Fall 2016

### PUBH 5520G - Introduction to Public Health

Katie M. Mercer

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## Course Syllabus

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**Georgia Southern University**  
**Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health**

## **PUBH 5520/5520G – Introduction to Public Health (2 credits)**

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### **Instructor Name**

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Dr. Katie Mercer

### **Contact Information**

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Office: Hendricks Hall 3017 (third floor)

Phone: 912-478-1343

Email: kmercer@georgiasouthern.edu

### **Office Hours**

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Mondays 10:00am - 12pm, Tuesdays 10am - 12pm, Wednesdays 10am - 12pm or by appointment

Students may also call in to my office or email me during office hours, if they are unable to come to campus.

We can also speak via Google chat or have a video call via Google Hangouts.

You may also email me with questions and concerns at anytime.

### **Response Times**

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Students can expect responses as follows:

- Email: within 36 hours
- Discussion posts: within 48 hours
- Assignment grades: within a week of submission date.

Exceptions: Response times on weekends and holidays is not guaranteed.

## Dropping this Class

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Last day to withdraw from class without academic penalty: **October 10, 2016.**

## Prerequisites: N/A

## Catalog Description:

This course is designed to give students a foundation in the core functions of the population-based public health (assessment, policy development and assurance). In addition, this course will examine the 10 essential services of public health within these core functions. Defining effective public health practice and providing knowledge about the technical, social, and political parameters related to public health research and practice are goals for this class. Students will gain an understanding of public health as a broad area of work that applies the benefits of current biomedical, environmental, social, and behavioral knowledge in ways that maximize the health status of all populations.

## Required Textbooks:

Schneider, M.J. (2017). Fifth Edition. *Introduction to Public Health*. Jones and Bartlett. ISBN: 978-1284089233.

## Introductory Core Competencies and Course Objectives

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### ***At the completion of this course students will be able to:***

1. Define Public Health and articulate the elements in the public health approach to ensuring the health of our public.
2. Explain the historical developments of the field.
3. Explain the core public health functions.
4. Explain how the core public health functions are operationalized at the global, national, state and local levels.
5. Describe the Public Health infrastructure within the United States and beyond (global).
6. Define the five core knowledge areas of public health: biostatistics, environmental health sciences, epidemiology, health policy and management, and

social and behavioral sciences.

7. Explain how state and local governmental public health agencies ensure availability of the ten essential services.
8. Describe the history and current status of the interactions between medicine and public health.
9. Explain the status of the public health workforce and efforts to expand and ensure the quality and diversity of this workforce.
10. Articulate the current issues within the field.

**Midterm and Final Exam:** You will have a midterm covering material up to that point and a final examination. The examinations will cover the material pertinent to the class and learning objectives. The final examination will be cumulative. These will be offered online. *Course objectives 1-10.*

**Quizzes:** You will have a series of four quizzes covering material up to the point of the quiz date each counting 25 points each. These quizzes will cover all topics mentioned in class discussion and learning materials. These will be offered during the face-to-face class meetings and will be open book and open notes. They will be very tightly timed so you will need to know the material prior to taking the quiz because you will most likely not be able to research the answer. *Course objectives 1-10.*

**TEDtalk Review:** Students will be required to search ted.com for a public health-related TED talk of their interest to review. Graduate students will be required to complete a more involved review project. See rubric in the course orientation module. *Course objectives 1-10.*

**Current Event Papers:** The students will find and print out public health-related current events to discuss. There will be four current event assignments throughout the semester each counting 25 points each. Students are expected to briefly summarize the article chosen and discuss why they find the current event they choose as interesting and related to public health. Guidelines are below:

1. Students must include a brief summary of current event (no more than one paragraph) - 5 points;
2. Students must discuss why they found the current event interesting - 5 points;
3. Students must discuss how the current event is related to public health - 5 points;
4. Students must use APA style for citations - must have two additional peer-reviewed references in addition to the reference of the actual article so three references in on the the References page - 5 points; &
5. Students must write at least 1.5 pages of text - name and date will go on a separate title page - 5 points.

*Course objective 10.*

**Grading:** Weighting of assignments for purposes of grading will be as follows:

**Undergraduate and Graduate Students**

Unit of Analysis	Points	% Total Grade
Midterm	50	12.5%
Final exam	50	12.5%
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Tedtalk review	100	25%
Current event papers	100	25%
Quizzes	100	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>400 pts</b>	<b>100%</b>

The following point scale will be utilized in grading:

Letter Grade	Undergrad / Grad	Percentage
A	360-400	90% - 100%
B	320-359	80%-89%
C	280-319	70%-79%
D	240-279	60%-69%

For calculation of your final grade, all grades above will be included. All exams and assignments will be graded and returned promptly so that students may accurately calculate their grades at any point in time during the semester. In extraordinary circumstances (e.g., serious illness, death in the family, etc.) and the student needs additional time to satisfactorily complete a requirement course assignment, please consult with the Instructor within 48 hours of the event. Work related issues, normal illnesses, child care, etc. do not count as extraordinary circumstances.

**Nota Bene:** Extensions *are not guaranteed* and will be granted solely at the discretion of the Instructor. **NO EXTRA CREDIT PROJECTS WILL BE ASSIGNED!**

**Course Assignments****Requirements for Written Work**

1. Papers must be typed. Papers will be unacceptable if the text is difficult to read. Please use 10-12 point font (Arial or Times New Roman), set all margins to 1 inch, and double space.
2. Do not rely on the spell-checking utility of your word processing program to detect all spelling errors. The program cannot detect the inappropriate use of correctly spelled words.
3. Grammar, spelling, and punctuation are expected to meet the same standard as are required in English classes. There is never any excuse for spelling errors. Use a dictionary. If you have the slightest doubt about the use of grammar, punctuation, or capital letters consult a good reference book.
4. Written work is expected to be organized to read smoothly and fluently without skipping from point to point and back. The use of appropriate introductory and concluding statements or paragraphs is a necessary part of this organization.
5. You are expected to be able to use terms encountered in class or in your readings in appropriate contexts, thus demonstrating that you understand them. If you are using other highly specific terms, explain or define them the first time you use them, and after that, use them in the proper way.
6. Use non-sexist language in all papers. Consult the APA Publication Manual (6<sup>th</sup> edition) for guidance in the use of non-sexist language.
7. Use quotation marks when quoting directly from written works of others and be sure to cite appropriately using APA formatting, which includes providing the location (e.g., page number, paragraph number) of the quotation. Use reference notes when you discuss information or ideas that have been expressed by others. Plagiarism is unethical and illegal. Any form of plagiarism will result in a grade of "0" for the assignment and may result in a failure for the course. Refer to Georgia Southern's Student Handbook for information about Academic Dishonesty.
8. Attach a separate reference list including all works cited in the paper. Refer to the APA Publication Manual (6<sup>th</sup> edition) if you have any questions regarding citations or preparation of a reference list.

**Standard Georgia Southern University and JPHCOPH Expectations****Academic Integrity:**

The Instructor believes that the conduct of a student registered or taking courses in the JPHCOPH should be consistent with that of a professional person. Courtesy, honesty, and respect should be shown by students toward faculty members, guest lecturers, administrative support staff, and fellow students. Similarly, students should expect faculty

to treat them fairly, showing respect for their ideas and opinions and striving to help them achieve maximum benefits from their experience in the JPHCOPH.

Please adhere to the strictest academic standards of conduct noted in the *GSU Student Conduct Code* and the *Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog*. Familiarize yourself with University's policies. Enrollment in this course is an implied contract between you and the Instructor. Academic integrity relates to the appropriate use of intellectual property. The syllabus and all materials presented and/or distributed during this course are protected by copyright law. You are authorized to take notes, but that authorization extends only to making one set of notes for personal (and no other) use. Students are not authorized to sell, license, commercially publish, distribute, transmit, display, or record notes in or from class without written permission of the Instructor.

### **Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is an academic dishonesty and is strictly prohibited. Sometimes students commit plagiarism without understanding what they are doing. Avoid this by visiting <http://www.education.indiana.edu/~frick/plagiarism/> and taking the quiz. This is not required but highly recommended.

According to the GSU Academic Dishonesty Policy, Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to):

1. Directly quoting the words of others without using quotation marks or indented format to identify them.
2. Using published or unpublished sources of information without identifying them.
3. Paraphrasing material or ideas without identifying the source.
4. Unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic material.

If you are accused of plagiarism, the following policy as per the Judicial Affairs website <http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/judicial/faculty.htm> will be enforced.

## ***PROCEDURES FOR ADJUDICATING ACADEMIC DISHONESTY CASES***

### **A. First Offense - In Violation Plea**

1. If the professor and the Dean of Students agree that the evidence is sufficient to warrant a charge of academic dishonesty, the professor should contact the Office of Judicial Affairs to determine if this is a first violation of academic dishonesty. The incident will be reported via the following website:  
<http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/judicial/faculty.htm>
2. If it is a first violation, the professor should talk with the student about the violation. If the student accepts responsibility in writing and the professor decides to adjudicate the case, the following procedures will be followed:

- a. The student will be placed on disciplinary probation for a minimum of one semester by the Office of Judicial Affairs.
- b. The student will be subject to any academic sanctions imposed by the professor (from receiving a 0 on the assignment to receiving a failing grade in the class).
- c. A copy of all the material involved in the case (Academic Dishonesty Report Form and the Request for Instructor to Adjudicate Form) and a brief statement from the professor concerning the facts of the case and the course syllabus should be mailed to the Office of Judicial Affairs for inclusion in the student's discipline record.

**B. First Offense - Not In Violation Plea (student does not admit the violation)**

1. If the professor and the Dean of Students agree that the evidence is sufficient to warrant a charge of academic dishonesty, the professor should contact the Office of Judicial Affairs to determine if this is the first or second violation of academic dishonesty. The student will be charged with academic dishonesty and the University Judicial Board or a University Hearing Officer would hear the case. If the student is found responsible, the following penalty will normally be imposed:
  - a. The student will be placed on Disciplinary Probation for a minimum of one semester by the Office of Judicial Affairs.
  - b. The student will be subject to any academic sanctions imposed by the professor.

**C. Second Violation of Academic Dishonesty**

1. If the professor and the Dean of Students agree that the evidence is sufficient to warrant a charge of academic dishonesty, and if it is determined this is the second violation, the student will be charged with academic dishonesty and the University Judicial Board or a University Hearing Officer would hear the case.
2. If the student is found responsible, the following penalty will normally be imposed:
  - a. Suspension for a minimum of one semester or expulsion.
  - b. The student will be subject to any academic sanctions imposed by the professor.

***NOT RESPONSIBLE FINDING***

When a student is found not responsible of academic dishonesty, the work in question (assignment, paper, test, etc.) would be forwarded to the Department Chair. It is the responsibility of the Department Chair to ensure that the work is evaluated by a faculty member other than the individual who brought the charge and, if necessary, submit a final grade to the Registrar. For the protection of the faculty member and the student, the work



in question should not be referred back to the faculty member who charged the student with academic dishonesty. In the case of a Department Chair bringing charges against a student, an administrator at the Dean's level will ensure that the student's work is evaluated in an appropriate manner.

**Academic Handbook:**

Students are expected to abide by the Academic Handbook, located at:

<http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/sta/guide/>

Failure to comply with any part of this Handbook may be a violation and thus, you may receive an F in the course and/or be referred for disciplinary action.

**University Calendar for the Semester:**

The University Calendar is located with the semester schedule, and can be found at:

<http://www.collegesource.org/displayinfo/catalink.asp>

**Accommodations:**

Georgia Southern University is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action institution committed to providing reasonable accommodations for any person with a disability who meets the definition of disabled as described in the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students requiring academic accommodation should contact the Director of the Student Disability Resource Center for assistance at **(912) 871-1566** or TDD: **(912) 478-0666**. Students requiring academic accommodation should also *notify the Instructor no later than the third class meeting* in the semester.

**One Final Note:**

The contents of this syllabus are as complete and accurate as possible. As a matter of courtesy, this Instructor will not reserve the right to make arbitrary changes to the syllabus. Any changes will be done in class with class consensus. As a return courtesy students should not demand extensions, bonuses or other arbitrary changes. It is the responsibility of the student to know what changes have been made in order to successfully complete the requirements of the course.